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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of
Shigekazu NAGAI et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/000,349

Group Art Unit: 3682

Filing Date: December 12, 2001

Examiner: Joyce, Willam C

Title: Actuator

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

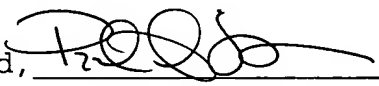
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

The information is in the form of references which have been cited in a corresponding Office Action from the German Patent Office, dated May 19, 2004, as a foreign counterpart application to the present application.

A copy of the German Office Action is enclosed, along with copies of the four (4) references cited therein. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001-0002783 is also enclosed, which is a corresponding publication to German Publication No. DE 199 03 612, along with U.S. Patent No. 6,446,520, which corresponds to German Publication No. DE 198 82 926.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

37 CFR 1.97(e) Statement. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Signed, 
Paul A. Guss

Date: August 3, 2004

This information is being submitted after issuance of a final Office Action, but before payment of the issue fee. Hence, in accordance with the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) statement above, consideration of the submitted information is proper with payment of the IDS fee, which is enclosed.

Should it be deemed that any other fees are due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, authorization is given to charge such fees to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	December 12, 2001
First Named Inventor	Nagai et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	CS-49-011204

Sheet	1	of	1
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 2000-213617	08-02-2000			
		EP 0 987 468	03-22-2000			
		DE 198 82 926	11-30-2000			
		DE 199 03 612	08-12-1999			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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